

Features

# Annual Mass celebrates anniversaries of bishop, 12 priests

Bishop Matthew H. Clark, who several months ago marked his 25th anniversary of ordination, was celebrant and homilist Wednesday, May 18, when the priests of the Diocese of Rochester gathered at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Brighton for the annual Mass in honor of priests marking their 50th and 25th anniversaries of ordination.

The *Courier-Journal* joins with the people of the diocese in congratulating these members of the jubilarian classes of 1938 and 1963, and in thanking them for their many years of service.

## The Class of 1938

Monsignor Richard K. Burnas was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Ralph L. Hayes in Rome on December 7, 1937. He earned an licentiate in sacred theology from the Gregorian University in Rome in 1938.

He began his priestly career as assistant pastor of Holy Rosary Church, Rochester, which he left in June of 1942 to become a professor at St. Andrew's Junior Seminary. He was named a pro synodal judge on February 16, 1945.

Father Burns moved to the faculty of St. Bernard's Seminary in August of 1945 and on January 2, 1946, was named minutante for the Sacred Congregation for the Oriental Church.

In July of 1947, Father Burns became vice rector of the North American College in Rome. He was awarded the title of papal chamberlain in July of the following year, and that of domestic prelate in October, 1953.

In June of 1954, Monsignor Burnas returned to Rochester to become pastor of St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Irondequoit, and was named vicar for religious in June of 1955. He retired from the pastorate in June of 1982, and in the summer of 1985 moved to Holy Cross Church, where he is an assisting priest.

### Father Valentine A. Jankowiak

a native of Poland, was ordained to the priesthood on June 11, 1938, in the city of Poznan, and came to the United States shortly thereafter. His first assignment in the Diocese of Rochester was as assistant pastor of St. Stanislaus Church, Rochester, in July of that year.

Father Jankowiak also served as assistant pastor at St. Francis DeSales Church, Geneva, in the years 1942-48 and 1954-55; St. Casimir's Church, Elmira, from 1948-1954; and St. Cecilia's Church, Rochester, from 1955-59.

In June of 1959, Father Jankowiak became pastor of St. Margaret Mary Church in Apalachin, and in June of 1974, he assumed the pastorate at St. Cecilia's Church, Elmira. He



retired in 1981 and now resides at St. Stanislaus, Rochester.

### Father Robert Kress

was ordained to the priesthood on June 11, 1938. His first assignment was as assistant pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Ithaca in July of that year. He also served as assistant pastor of St. Peter and Paul, Rochester, from 1943-56; St. Mary's, Auburn, from 1956-58; and St. John the Evangelist, Rochester, from 1958-1959.

In January of 1959, Father Kress became pastor of St. Mary's Church, Rexville, and St. Joachim's, Canisteo. He moved on to the pastorate of St. Michael's, Montezuma, and St. John's, Port Byron, in 1967. His final pastorate was at St. Joseph's in Rush from 1975-83, when he retired. Father Kress now resides at St. Joseph's Church, Livonia.

Monsignor Joseph J. Sullivan was ordained on September 24, 1938, and within weeks became assistant pastor of St. Michael's, Penn Yan, and St. Andrew's, Dundee. In 1940 he became assistant pastor at Sacred Heart Cathedral, where he served until becoming a chaplain in the U.S. Armed Services. From 1946 to 1955, Father Sullivan served as the first full-time Rome and Vatican correspondent for the National Catholic Welfare Conference News Service — precursor to today's National Catholic News Service. He was named a papal chamberlain in January of 1953.

Returning to Rochester in 1955, Monsignor Sullivan assumed the pastorate of Holy Cross Church in Ovid and Sacred Heart Church in Romulus. In 1958, he became pastor of St. Michael's, Penn Yan, and St. Andrew's, Dundee. His final pastorate was at Auburn's Holy Family Church, beginning in 1968. He retired in 1982 and now resides in Seneca Falls.



on June 11, 1938, and became assistant pastor of St. Mary's in Auburn the following month. He served as pastor of St. Peter and Paul Church, Auburn from 1941 to 1943, when he became a chaplain in the U.S. Navy.

Returning to Rochester in 1946, Father Whalen was assigned as assistant pastor of St. Mary's Church. In 1950 he assumed the duties of assistant chancellor of the diocese and was named a papal chamberlain in January of 1956.

Monsignor Whalen assumed the pastorate of Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Brighton, in 1958. He became diocesan consultor in March of 1958 and was named domestic prelate in June of the following year. Monsignor Whalen retired in 1980 and is now living at St. Ann's Home.

## The Class of 1963

A number of late-1987 celebrations marked the 25th jubilee of Bishop Matthew H. Clark, who was ordained in Rome on December 19, 1962. A priest of the Diocese of Albany, then-Father Clark was assigned to Our Lady of Mercy Parish in the town of Colonie and to Albany's Vincentian Institute.

Starting in 1964, he pursued graduate studies in Rome, returning in 1966 as Albany's vice chancellor. During 1967 he worked in the diocesan schools' office on the subject of aid to parochial schools, and was assigned to St. Ambrose Parish in Latham.

He became chairman of the Albany Priests' Personnel Board in 1969, returning to Rome in 1972 to serve as assistant spiritual director and then spiritual director of the North American College.

On May 2, 1979, Matthew H. Clark was named eighth bishop of the Diocese of Rochester. He was ordained a bishop by Pope John Paul II on May 27 and was installed as bishop by Cardinal Terrence Cooke in ceremonies at the Rochester Community War Memorial on June 26, 1979.

### Father Andrew Grzela

was ordained to the priesthood on June 6, 1963, in the city of Gniezno, Poland. During the year 1963-64, he served in Slaboszewo, then at the Catholic University of Lublin, Poland, from 1966-68.

Between 1968 and 1973, he served in the bishop's office in Gniezno and was later assigned to Bydgoszcz. From 1974-79, he served in Goroka on a mission to Papua, New Guinea.

Arriving in Rochester, Father Grzela became associate pastor of St. Stanislaus Church in 1981 and assumed the pastorate in 1984. He was incardinated as a priest of the Rochester diocese on June 6, 1986.

### Father Winfried M. Kellner

was ordained June 1, 1963, and began his priestly career later that month as assistant pastor of St. Alphonsus Church, Auburn. Four successive appointments as assistant pastor were at St. Cecilia's, Rochester, 1968-70; Church of the Assumption, Fairport, 1970-73; St. Andrew's, Rochester, 1973-78; and St. Boniface, Rochester, during the fourth quarter of 1978.

On December 28, 1978, he was appointed



administrator of St. Boniface, and assumed the pastorate in August of 1979. Since July of 1983, Father Kellner has been chaplain at Monroe Community Hospital.

### Father F. James Lawlor

pastor of St. Mary's Church, Rochester, was ordained on June 1, 1963. His first appointment was as assistant pastor at St. Helen's Church, Gates, and in August of 1963 he began a one-year assignment as assistant chancellor of the diocese.

During the 1966-67 academic year Father Lawlor pursued graduate studies at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., earning his licentiate in sacred theology in 1967. Returning to Rochester, he was assigned to serve as assistant pastor of Guardian Angels Church, Henrietta. From 1968-74, he served as chaplain at the University of Rochester's Newman Center, and became associate pastor of St. Charles Borromeo in June of 1974. He has been pastor at St. Mary's since 1980.

### Father John L. O'Connor

pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Brighton, was ordained on June 1, 1963. For the next 12 years he served as assistant pastor of four diocesan parishes: St. Charles Borromeo Church, Elmira Heights, from 1963-65; St. Michael's Church, Newark, from 1965-70; St. Pius X Church, Chili, from 1970-75; and Holy Trinity Church, Webster, from 1975-80. He has been pastor of the Brighton parish since August of 1980.

### Father John J. Quinn

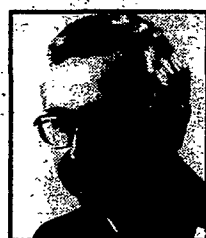
currently serves as pastor of Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Greece. He was ordained on June 1, 1963, and served his first appointment as assistant pastor of Good Shepherd Church, Henrietta. In November of 1968, he moved to the same post at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Greece.

From November of 1970 to June of 1977, Father Quinn served as chaplain in the Campus Ministry office at the State University College at Brockport. At the end of that assignment, he assumed the pastorate of St. Stephen's Church in Geneva, where he remained until moving to Our Lady of Mercy in 1981.

### Father Patrick W. Seelman

TOR, was ordained June 8, 1963. From ordination until June of 1968 he served with the Third Order Regular Franciscans. His first assignment with the Diocese of Rochester was as assistant pastor of St. Patrick's Church, Seneca Falls. In May of 1970, Father Seelman took another assignment with the Third Order Regulars.

He returned to diocesan work in 1975 as associate pastor of St. Mary's Church, Elmira. Successive associate pastorates were at St. Vincent's, Corning, 1981-84; and St. Stephen's, Geneva, 1984-85. Since June of 1985, Father Seelman has been pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Auburn.





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